

Message

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Sent: 6/4/2014 11:05:34 AM
To: Capacasa, Jon [Capacasa.jon@epa.gov]
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Subject: PFOS
Attachments: PFOS issue 060414.docx

PFOS elevated at DE and PA drinking water systems

Concentrations of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) at three Region 3 public water systems exceed EPA's provisional health advisory for drinking water of 0.2 parts per billion (ppb).

- Artesian Water (DE), Wilmington Manor (Well #3, 0.93 ppb, 1.8 ppb) – Results from two other wells at this location do not show detectable levels (i.e., < 0.02 ppb).
- Warminster Municipal Authority, PA (Well #26, 0.791 ppb) – samples from five other wells at this PWS had detectable PFOS ranging from 0.0553 to 0.193 ppb. The Warminster PWS has been the subject of investigation as part of an ongoing remedial site assessment of ground water contamination associated with the Warminster Naval Air Station; however, these sampling results exceed previously known concentrations. Both the Hazardous Site Cleanup Division and Water Protection Division are engaged in the ongoing assessment.
- United Water, Harrisburg, PA (sample understood to be from Airport, 0.363 ppb) - source unknown

Results of recent sampling rounds under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) were posted Monday (June 2) to the UCMR website. The nature and timing of public notification to PWS customers of these results appears to be a matter of state discretion, as these chemicals are not regulated. While we are in an advisory position, we anticipate that Delaware DHSS and PA DEP will be taking prompt action. However, this information is very fresh, and states must determine factors such as what treatment is in place, what potential water supply alternatives exist, etc. to determine the best immediate course of action.

The UCMR requires mandatory sampling for selected contaminants to help determine the frequency of their occurrence and concentration in public water systems. The information, together with an assessment of the health effects associated with the contaminants, will be used to determine whether they should be regulated. Only eight PWS nationally appear to have had reportable detections of PFOS; in addition to the three locations mentioned above, two additional PWS in Region 3 have detections: another Artesian Water (DE) site, the Jefferson Farm Plant (0.18 ppb, 0.13 ppb), and Martinsburg, WV (0.0738 ppb). PFOS is associated with specialized chemical treatments for stain resistance, paper sizing and fire fighting foams. Apart from the Warminster case, potential sources have not yet been investigated. EPA's provisional health advisory (0.2 ppb) is for short-term exposure. Health risk assessments for PFOS and PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) are currently undergoing peer review; the risk assessments may ultimately result in further revisions to the health advisory, and would eventually be used for any potential rule-making for drinking water standards.

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